

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 44/Number 5 April 2013



Administration Message

Dear Residents:

Despite the disappearance of Spring and the recent heavy rains, several things have been going on in our Village as we wait for the warm weather to finally appear. As you know, local municipal elections have been held, the I294/Plainfield security/sound wall has been installed, the electrical aggregation program is on-track, and there are some pest-y pot-holes on Wolf Road. By the way, vehicle sticker sales will begin this year on May 15th (insert). Here are some details.

Election 2013

IHP voters went to the polls and cast their ballots for candidates for positions on school boards, park districts, and our local municipal government. This year, there were six candidates for the three Village Trustee positions up for election, namely Brenda O'Laughlin, Tom Hinshaw, Amy Wittenberg, Deb Anselmo, Anne Bermier, and Dennis Schermerhorn. The results showed that the IHP electors had selected **O'Laughlin, Hinshaw and Wittenberg** as new trustees on the Village Board. Congratulations to all of our local winners and those throughout our area as well as a sincere thank you to all who voted. Moreover, a special thank you to our out-going trustees – **Anselmo, Bermier, and Schermerhorn** - for their years of dedicated and tireless hard work on behalf of all IHP residents. Indian Head Park is a better community today because of their involvement and desire to do the right thing for everyone. No matter your viewpoint or candidate of choice in this last election, these three individuals served our Village well and deserve our sincerest thanks and deepest appreciation for that service. We wish Debbie, Anne, and Dennis well in the future and ask them to stay close and involved.

As for our trustees-elect, Brenda, Tom, and Amy, welcome to the Village Board! We begin a new chapter in the history of Indian Head Park. Although these three are new to Village government, they share with our current Board and residents the desire to improve our Village. As a starting point, we have the common focus of putting all of the residents of IHP first and doing the right thing for them. I look forward to working with them in this regard. Now that the election is over, it is time for all residents and the candidates to put the election behind us and move forward together as we tackle the challenges facing the Village. I know that we need to work together to keep this Village moving forward as it has in the past. I am sure that all of our trustees, new and incumbent, believe the same thing. Together, and with the support of all our residents, we can be successful.

I294/Plainfield Sound wall

As previously announced, the Village Board was able to reach an agreement with the Illinois Tollway Authority to extend the security/sound wall along I294 at Plainfield Road. If you do not live in that area of our Village, or had not noticed, the installation work is almost complete. Work on the \$350,000 project began near the end of March with the installation of additional panels of sound wall, including "cut-outs" [my term] for the openings in the supports for the Plainfield Road overpass. The new wall extends along the ramp to the Hinsdale oasis on the toll road along Flagg Creek. Hopefully, the new sound wall will bring a noticeable reduction to the road noise levels for the residents who live in that area.

Electrical Aggregation

By now, IHP residents should have received a letter from ComEd entitled "Electric Supplier Choice Confirmation". This letter advises our residents who were eligible for the IHP electric aggregation program and who did not "opt-out" that their electric supplier of choice will be changed with Constellation Energy within two business days of May 9, 2013. Furthermore, the letter advises residents that they had until April 22nd to cancel this enrollment by contacting Constellation Energy at 877-997-9995 or ComEd. If you did not get this letter and believe you should have, please contact ComEd and also let the Village know.

Note, only residential accounts who were not already with an alternate energy supplier or who had not opted out of the aggregation program would have been sent this letter. The ComEd letter alludes to an early termination fee being possible. However, the IHP agreement Constellation Energy provides that there will be no early termination fee for those who did not opt-out but cancel their agreement during the initial one-year term. For your information, about 4.5% of our residential accounts opted to get out of the aggregation program. It is my understanding that this is less than would otherwise be expected and indicates strong support for the program from our residents. Please Note, ComEd will still deliver the electricity to us and should be contacted in the first instance concerning power outages, metering, moving, or billing questions. The new rate to be charged for the electricity used by IHP residents after the cut-over date of about May 9th will be 4.899 cents/kwh. See our website and the information previously sent to you for more details about this program.

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Wolf Road potholes

If you have driven on Wolf Road at any time since mid-March, you certainly have seen (and tried to avoid) the potholes and deteriorated road surface on southbound Wolf Road between Plainfield and Joliet Road near the Acacia north entrance. In case you did not know, Wolf Road is a Cook County highway that we do not own, control, or have authority to repair. However, we contacted the County and with the help of Cook County Commissioner Liz Gorman and the County Highway department, the potholes were filled with some cold patch. This is typically a temporary fix. However, the weather has been too cold (and rainy) for a more permanent fix at this time. We will monitor the situation and seek more lasting repairs in the future as the cold-patch is starting to deteriorate again. Thank you for your patience in this regard.

Finally, our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to the people of Boston and especially to the victims and their families affected by the bombing that took place during the Boston marathon on April 15th. As always, we extend our thanks again to the first responders to this senseless horrific tragedy. We are grateful for the capture/removal from the streets of those apparently responsible.

I urge all of our IHP residents to remember those touched by this calamity and help however possible!

Happy Mothers' Day to our IHP moms and grand-mothers!

Respectfully, Richard S. Andrews, mayor

TRADING POST

Alterations . . . Experienced with silks, woolens, ultrasuede, leathers, hems, zippers, etc. Heirloom christening gowns designed from mother's wedding gown. Call Jean at (708) 246-6635.

Acacia Pool . . . Looking for a summer job? Lifeguard positions are needed at the Acacia Pool. Please apply at the Clubhouse at 111 Cascade Drive or call (708) 246-2400.

Smoke Signals (708) 246-3137 **Volume 44, Number 5** Circulation 2000

Smoke Signals is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

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Office Hours
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Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Mayor: Richard S. Andrews
Trustees: Deborah A. Anselmo Dennis Schermerhorn
Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnauffer
Anne Bermier Matthew P. Walsh II

Village Clerk: Joseph V. Consolo

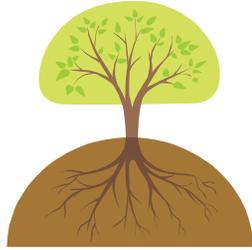
**Chief of Police/
Administrator:** Frank Alonzo, Jr.

Police Dept. Non-Emergency 246-4534
Emergency 9-1-1

Fire Dept. Non-Emergency 352-9229
Emergency 9-1-1

Arbor Day Proclamation

Whereas, In 1827 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for planting of trees, and; Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and; Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and; Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and; Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and; Whereas, trees in our Village increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community, and; Whereas, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and; Whereas, the Village of Indian Head Park has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree planting ways, Now, Therefore I, Richard S. Andrews, Mayor of the Village of Indian Head Park, do hereby proclaim, April 26, 2013 as;



Arbor Day

in the Village of Indian Head Park, and I urge all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our Village's forestry program, and; Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

Richard S. Andrews, Mayor
Village of Indian Head Park

Celebrating Seniors Week

During the week of May 16-23, 2013 (Older American's Month), twenty-two communities in Lyons, Riverside and South Proviso Townships will come together to "Celebrate Seniors" through events, activities and programs. The celebration is modeled after a similar, very successful program which has been held in Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park for the last two years. There will be many events, activities and programs to engage, inform, and entertain older adults and their families. Key components of the week will be: **60 over 60 Volunteer Recognition Program** to recognize not only the older adults who are community leaders making a difference, but also those older adults who are our unsung heroes helping their neighbors or volunteering with organizations committed to improving the lives of seniors. **Tentative programming** includes presentations concerning financial security, estate planning, downsizing, housing options, senior scams, how to not be a victim, a concert presented by the Lyons Township High School Madrigals, and bicycle safety for older adults. Final Celebrating Seniors Week programming will be posted on the Aging Care website at <http://agingcareconnections.org/>. Please be sure to check back. For more information, please contact Linda Hussey, Celebrating Seniors Week Coordinator, at 708-354-1323, ext. 242, or via e-mail at lhussay@aging-careconnections.org.

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees: 7:30 p.m.:
Thursday, May 9, 2013

Planning and Zoning Commission: 7:30 p.m.:
Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Fire and Police Commission: 7:00 p.m.
No meeting scheduled at this time.

E-911 Board: 6:30 p.m.
No meeting scheduled at this time.

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

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TEEPEE TOPICS

The Heritage Center Library is looking for someone who has 3 hours of time on certain Sundays to volunteer as a docent at the library. The hours are 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. that you can spend meeting with your neighbors or browsing for a great book for yourself. If you are interested, please call Jane Kuhn at (708) 246-0293.

Since Pace's Pace Bus on Shoulder Program was implemented in 2011, ridership on Route 885 (Plainfield – East Loop Express) has increased dramatically as passengers take advantage of faster, more reliable service between the southwest suburbs and Chicago. Pace announced that service will be increased on this route to accommodate more riders, reduce commute times, increase capacity and further reduce travel times with a new schedule beginning May 6, 2013. For Indian Head park residents that are interested, Pace Bus Route 885 has a Park and Ride location in Burr Ridge that picks up at various times in the early mornings on weekdays at this location with a reverse commute from Union Station back to the Burr Ridge Park and Ride location. Three new morning, evening and midday trips have been added to the Pace Express Route 885 with direct service to the I-55 Park and Ride locations. For further details regarding the Pace programs or to obtain a Pace Route 885 schedule, please visit the Pace website at pacebus.com or call the TRA Travel Information Center at (312) 836-7000.

St. John of the Cross will be having its 40th annual garage sale on Saturday, June 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. John of the Cross School, 5005 S. Wolf Road, Western

Springs. Half price sale Monday, June 24th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

American English "a Beatles Tribute" will be performing at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove on Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. The show includes classic Beatle favorites. The event is being announced by S.E.A.S.P.A.R. who provides year round recreation services for individuals with disabilities. Proceeds from this event will benefit S.E.A.S.P.A.R. Tickets are \$20.00 (before April 25th) or \$25.00 after April 26th. Further details may be found by contacting S.E.A.S.P.A.R. at (630) 960-7600 or www.americanenglish.com

Congratulations to Chara Dubin who achieved dean's list honors throughout her graduate school studies and is presently finishing her hands-on clinical rotations at places which included Christ Hospital, UIC Hospital, St. Joseph's Medical Center and the FDA in Washington, D.C. She has accepted an emergency medicine residency at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C. starting in July. She will receive her Doctorate of Pharmacy Degree from Purdue University at the May commencements.

Congratulations to the following students from Indian Head Park who achieved honors at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Katie Campbell, Megan Creighton, Kristinia Filis and Lauren Mayer. Also to Lauren Kolbusz and Connor Kriz who made the dean's list at the University of Iowa.

Congratulations to Jaime Dugan who achieved a "perfect score" on the ACT Exam last year! We wish her well as she heads off to college.

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